

From the album- **Hitchhiking On A Narrow Road**
The James Jennings Project

01- Leave the Past Behind: (Isaiah 43:18-19; Philippians 3:13)

Leave the past behind, throw away the chains that hold you back.

Close and lock the door. Never leave a way for going back.

Leave the fear behind. Leave the broken dreams and all the heartache.

Walk into the light. Open up your eyes and leave the darkness.

Lies, all you ever got was lies. Don't be surprised. It wasn't really all that good.

Climb out on a limb. You always play safer, too far in.

Why not take a chance? You will never know until you try it.

It is worth the risk. Letting go of things you can not keep.

He won't let you down. You gotta let go, gotta leave the past behind.

Your new life is waiting, waiting for you...

Always press ahead. Choose another path, get out of bed.

Don't just mope around. Get up on your feet. Get into town.

Find your sunny day. Never let the clouds get in your way.

Reach out for the prize. Take a leap of faith. Gotta leave the doubt behind.

02- Swimming:

Waves are lapping up on the shore. So don't go knocking on my front door. I'm swimming.

Fish and stingrays in my face. I don't want to be no other place. I'm swimming.

There's a drink in my hand that you've got to taste. Spray some sun screen on my face.

Don't hurry now, this is not a race. I'm swimming.

There's a little sunburn on my head. The back of my neck is turning red. I'm swimming.

Crystal waters all around. I don't want to stand on solid ground. I'm swimming.

The sunsets here are really grand. You gotta' give the Lord a hand.

Wiggle my toes up in the sand. I'm swimming.

Like those boats out in a row There's no place we must go.

Get this off my chest- I am blessed. So blessed.

So back home now, I'm a little cold. Refuse to let myself get old. I'm swimming.

I'll take some time to laugh and smile. I won't let life be such a trial. I'm swimming.

I'll sit on a dock and watch the sky. Enjoy each day as it goes by.

I may not win but I'm gonna' try. I'm swimming.

I feel the salt spray against my face, Something quite cold down between my toes.

I hear the crazy sound a seagull makes. Taste salt foam running down my nose.

White foam, dark grey clouds. Thunder, rumbles deep.

Sand and shells, Fish and whales and waves that never sleep.

The churning foam's the fishes home. The water walls and steeple.

Sandy floors and coral doors are never seen by people. Never seen by people.

03- Stand in the Gap: (Ezekiel 22:30-31)

There once was a world, sorely divided, between those who had and had not decided.

And the Haves were so happy that they were united, that soon they lost sight of the Nots.

Now, as the years passed the Haves built their temples.

They were holding their meetings and going to church.

And the Nots soon forgot the Haves had existed, and soon they gave up on their search.

Well the City of Nots was soon plagued with fever, which wasted their children and cut down their wise.

And though they cried out the Haves did not hear them, for they were too busy to notice the cries.

So tell me then, who will stand in the gap?

Tell me, who will struggle to bring the Nots back?

For the God of the Haves is the God of the Nots,

and although we forget He has never forgot.

Well, the Haves grew so cold the Nots became hardened.

It's so hard to believe they both came from one garden.

And it's up to the Haves, now to bring the Nots back.

Yes, it's up to the Haves now to stand in the gap.

04-Till You Look Good From the Inside Out: (Matthew 23:27-28)

Well you can make lots of money, and you can buy you some fine, fine clothes.

Buy a car, go real far, but that won't change who you really are.

Because fashion is just skin deep. You can change what you wear, but you've still got to keep that ugly person deep down inside, 'till you look good from the inside out.

You can check with your horoscope. You can go to your shrink. You can learn how to cope.

You can try to get in touch with yourself, but that won't change you into somebody else,

Because all these things are just sin deep. You can change how you feel, but you've still got to keep

that empty person deep down inside, 'till you feel good from the inside out.

What's the use, don't put a coat of white paint on the outside of a dead man's tomb?

When you can be raised from the dead, then you can move into a brand new room.

"Livin' large", you're the talk of the town. And with your bad self you can really get down.

"Bust a move.. find your groove", but in the end that can never improve

because all that stuff's just hiding the fact that deep down inside you know it's just a big act..

and that wall of lies continues to crack, 'till you look good from the inside out.

05- Time to Change Partners: (John 14:18)

A little boy, a little girl, livin' in a house of wood. In a town just like this one.

Look their lives have just begun.

A father, mother out of touch. The emptiness is just too much.

They split. They turn and they walk away. But the children wake, just to hear them say:

It's time to change partners again. We just can't go on livin' like we're livin'.

Well everyone's takin' and nobody's givin'.

We'll just have to start once again. Leave behind the years of our commitments.

The children will grow to understand in time.

The years go by and the boy grows up. Never understanding which way is up.

The boy turns and he takes a bride, but he's never able to hide the pain inside.

As children come, they drift apart. A broken home and a broken heart.

The children's children wake one day Only to hear their parents say.

Around and round the circle goes. And where it stops nobody knows.

The children will grow to understand in time. I hope we will learn to understand with time.

06- Forever Springtime Love: (Song of Solomon 8:6-7)

Love, I see the sun, I smell the air so fresh and new. Sky, so blue and clean, forever Spring since I found you.

Never before, but now I see, Love, you are Springtime to me.

Clouds, so pure and white, chasing a breeze, floating above.

The wind is in my hair, Spring everywhere with you my love.

Never before, but now I see, Love, you are Springtime to me.

With Spring has come a thaw, which causes me to melt.

This Spring has brought me feelings that I have never felt.

When Winter's frost draws near, and warmer days seem in the past.

We'll cling to all that's dear, because our love will surely last.

And though darkness falls, still I will see, that Love, you are Springtime to me.

07- Another Grey Day:

It's another grey day in the valley. I can't seem to open my eyes.

Drag myself to my feet, and I push back my seat. I put on my jacket and pick up the keys to the car.

It's a dusty old road that I'm drivin'. I wish you were here by my side.

So I'll step on the gas, Got to get home real fast. I count down the minutes, like so many minutes before.

*I can't say why I keep drivin'. If you were not waiting, I'd die.
So I keep pressing homeward. To see that look in your eyes.*
This endless horizon seems changeless. Nothing but pavement ahead.
Girl, I miss your sweet smile, wishing mile upon mile,
I'll get to our door and you'll tell me: "No more, please don't go. Please don't go."
*Some say the journey's what matters, but I confess, I really don't care.
What's left of my heart would surely be shattered,
if I made my way home, and found out that you were not there.*
Clouds finally starting to part now. I see my rainbow ahead.
And it won't be that long, 'till you sing me our song, and I'm finally home and I won't have to roam any more.

08- All To You: (Colossians 3:17)

Wonderful, Lord that's what You are. Powerful, almighty Father.
All You had, You gave up willingly, so, all that I am, I place in Your hand. I give all to You.
Marvelous, beyond all mere words. Author of all of creation.
Greater than the grandest dreams of man,
that our minds could conceive, so Lord I believe, and give all to You.
*All to You, I offer. All I have, Lord I lay down. All I am, in thankful service.
My life's in Your hand. I gratefully stand and give all to You.*
Merciful, towards all that You've made. Just and kind, loving redeemer.
Gracious Lord. Father what else can we do,
than to offer our lives, surrender our pride, and give all to You?

*Lord, just lifting our hands is not what You ask for. And joining in prayer is only a start.
In living out grace, let Your justice flow from this place.
So we hold nothing back, we will share with all who may lack and give all to You.*

09- The Strength to Go On: (Philippians 4:6-7)

For all of you who find yourselves living in pain, I wish that I could find the right words to explain why a loving God would allow you to suffer the way that you do.
For all of you who question the goodness of God, you cry and say the road you are walking is hard.
Well, all I know is you're not alone. He is with you, beside you, He's kneeling to guide you along.
*Just hold out your hand 'cause He's there, no, Jesus will never desert you.
Just lift up your worries and cares, for His back is strong and He'll give you the strength to go on.*
Now I can't explain why He does what He does, but He's not the source of your hurting.
And though you think that He doesn't care, I know His words are true and He says that He loves you...so...

*And, if you need a friend, well, He will be right there beside you.
True to the end, because love never fails.*

For all of you who question the goodness of God, yes it's true the world that we live in is flawed still His love for you is so great that His own Son not sparing expresses His caring, so...

10- There Hangs a Man: (Isaiah 53)

There hangs a man, tattered and torn, but for this cause, they say He was born to bear our sins, the One who had known no sin. There hangs our God, creator and Lord, humbled as man, His body destroyed. Mocked by a world His own hands had caused to be.

*Forsaken he died on a cross. Carried the guilt of us all.
His blood spilt to wash us all clean, the Lamb of God.*

"He was despised and rejected by men. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
Surely our griefs he bore and our sorrows he carried.
He was pierced for our transgressions, and He was crushed for our iniquities.
but the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53)
Our God becomes man, and what does He do? He lays down His life. What more could He do?
And now we stand clean just because there hangs a man.

11- Seeking the Way Back Home: (Luke 15:11-32)

There was a time when I thought it was easy to be in Your will and to always do right, but now I concede it's a difficult thing to faithfully fight the good fight.
Yes, I'd like to say that we're closer than brothers, feeling Your presence at every turn, but I seem to have lost my way in the darkness and I desperately wait for Your return.

*Oh, where did I go wrong? And how can I find my way back home again?
Lord, I have been lost for much too long and I'm seeking the way back home.*

Now out in this fog, I've confused my location, but I've got a map which is sure and it's true. No compass is keener to guide my direction and lead me safe back home to You.
Some days I question my place in Your family. Can I be Your child, as flawed as I am? But You promise to finish what Your hands have started, my Savior, my father, my comfort, and friend.

12- Stay: (Luke 15:4-7)

There once was a shepherd who tended his sheep. He was always on guard and he never would sleep. And he loved each dear lamb, like it was his own child. And he always stood ready, when out in the wild. For out in the wild was a terrible foe, who silently waited for one lamb to go. And the shepherd sang:

*Stay, close to me. Don't wander away. Draw near to my side.
My arms will protect you, and keep you from harm, if you'll only stay. Only stay.*

But as lambs sometimes will one soon wandered away. Though it knew it was wrong it just did not obey. For it wanted to see what was out in the woods, and it thought "just this once" not to do what it should. While the enemy silently planned the attack, the shepherd was calling his lamb to come back. And the shepherd sang:
When the lamb didn't come back the man did not pause. The shepherd went after the one that was lost. And the enemy fled when it saw them embrace. And the man took his lamb quickly back to their place. Never knowing how close it had come to its doom. The lamb only knew it was glad to be home. And the shepherd sang:

13- False Sheep: (Matthew 7:15)

I hear you sing. And I hear you shout, but you've got no clue what My Spirit's about. Your prayers all fall short, 'cause I just won't hear your self-centered pleas or your self-righteous tears. And you constantly say that you know My will, but I've never known you, and I never will. Well, you're in the news. You're what the world sees. They're looking at you and they think that you're Me. And my children won't stand because they've become numb. And they just don't see how inept they've become. Meanwhile every hour, and every day, you stand there hands bloodied with nothing to say.

*False sheep are corrupting My Church. They weaken My family like vultures they search,
to devour My children who've fallen asleep. Oh! Wake up and beware of false sheep!*
The wheat and the tares I soon must divide, and the ones who will come will be here by My side. But the ones who insist, and seem so hellbent, along with the father of lies will be sent away to the place prepared for the ones who choose not to follow the way of My son!
I watch you scheme and I see you plot, 'cause you've got no clue what My kingdom's about- to be humble and gracious to foes and to friends, and to not use My name as a means to your ends. I'll restore you one day, and make all things new, and show you a mercy your foes never knew.

All songs written and performed by James Jennings

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Vocals on "Till You Look Good From The Inside Out"- James Jennings

All other vocals were programmed using a vocal synthesizer.